



The first appropriation bill to be introduced at the approaching session of Congress will be one to carry forward the expenditures on account of the war with Spain. By the explicit terms of the bill passed at the last session, making provision for the army and navy, authority to expend the money appropriated expires on Dec. 31, so that it will be necessary to prepare and enact, before the holiday recess, legislation extending the period to June 30 next, the end of the fiscal year. This is the view of Chairman Cannon of the House Committee on Appropriations.

The President and Secretary Alger have agreed to make the same recommendation in regard to the proposed increase of the regular army. Secretary Alger, in his annual report, and the President in turn, in his annual message to Congress, will recommend that the standing army be placed on a permanent peace basis of 100,000. The President's decision to advocate an army of 100,000 is taken as an indication that he thoroughly appreciates the necessity of properly garrisoning the new possessions and dependencies with United States troops.

In his annual report the Secretary of War will recommend an increase of the numerical strength of the military academy to not fewer than 500 cadets, and he may decide to ask an increase to 700, which is the maximum capacity of the building. The number of cadets at West Point now is 370, but if the army is doubled in strength it will be necessary to double the number of officers, and for the same reason the number of cadets.

The Government has decided to investigate the race troubles in South Carolina in respect to the interference with the duties of Federal officers. This is the only extent to which the Government can go, as it is considered that the other difficulties are merely local, and therefore not within the province of the national government. The investigation will be conducted by the Department of Justice.

A heavy and continued demand exists for American corn in South Africa, according to United States Consul General Stowe at Cape Town, who has made a special report to the State Department on the subject of American trade in that section. Corn is quoted at \$3.52 per hundred pounds in Cape Town and \$4.44 in Johannesburg, and the supplies do not satisfy the demand.

President McKinley has practically completed his message to Congress, for while it is not all written the remainder is carefully outlined. It will deal almost exclusively with the war and will give reasons for the pronounced advocacy of expansion by the administration. Attention is also called to the necessity for an increase in the regular army.

According to a ruling made by the Post-office Department the postmasters throughout the country are prohibited from passing out mail matter to children while going to and from school. The department made this ruling on account of the numerous complaints made of mail matter lost by children.

The positive statement by Chairman Dingley of the House Ways and Means Committee that there will be no revision of the existing war revenue law short of a year, renders it certain that the Government will have an unusually large amount of cash to expend during the next twelve months.

There are evidences that the influential people behind the monetary commission will bring pressure to bear on the President to call an extra session of Congress in the early spring. They want the currency reformed on the lines laid down by the Indianapolis conference.

Attorney General Griggs has rendered a decision that a person may draw money on a check without a revenue stamp provided the check be payable to himself from his own funds.

The first state dinner of the season was given at the White House Wednesday evening, when the President and Mrs. McKinley entertained fifty guests in honor of the Anglo-American commissioners.



It is said that the bookmakers at Chicago the past season lost \$250,000.

Riley Grannan has been beating the bookies at the California race tracks.

The percentage of the Chicagois this year is the best since the twelve-clut league started.

It has been figured that during the National League season 173 times pitchers were driven off the slab by opposing batsmen.

Jersey Dick Clawson will get a salary from Whitney & Paget of \$7,500, besides being paid the regular sum for winning and losing and outside mounds. A few years ago Dick thought he had a good job when he was picking strawberries at 50 cents a day.

The total membership of the League of American Wheelmen is 78,077. Pennsylvania has 17,792 and New York 17,686. Massachusetts is third.

James Daly of Buffalo, who was Corbett's sparring partner several years ago, has been appointed boxing instructor of the Buffalo Athletic Club, and will retire from the ring.

It is generally agreed that it was a mistake to abolish the firing system in the National League last season, and in 1899 it is apt to cost a player a bit of his stipend if he dares an umpire to put him off the field.

## THEY DREW STRAWS

And Jim Had to Tend the Cattle While Harry Helped Whip Spain.

Upon the edge of Cataract Canyon, in Arizona, forty miles north of the nearest town, Williams, "Jim" Johnson sits in a grazer's cabin and waits for the return of his "pard," "Harry" J. Sellers, who is a member of Troop A, Rough Riders. "Harry" and "Jim" have been partners for twenty years, and they now own a big herd of cattle which they graze on the Arizona plateaus.

In order to keep drinking water for their cattle in the dry months of the year, they have dammed up part of the canyon, and there they keep enough melted snow to water their stock all summer.

It was in April that Sellers rode down to Williams to buy provisions and get his semi-annual supply of news of the world. When he heard that the Maine had been sunk and that Major Brodie was trying to get up a regiment of cowboys, he put spurs to his horse to tell "Jim" the news and to get ready to go to the front. "Jim" listened, and then took down his rifle and began to clean it.

"What are you doing, Jim?" inquired Harry.

"Going to jine," said "Jim," as he continued the polishing.

"Now, look here, Jim, we can't both go. Somebody's got to look after the cattle. Let's draw lots to see who goes. If he's killed the other man will have the cattle."

"Jim" agreed, and two straws were procured. "Jim" got the little straw and had to stay at home. It nearly broke his heart when Harry rode off to war. Harry has written him several letters describing the "fun" at La Quasina and San Juan in order to cheer him.

## A Picturesque Career.

One of the strange and picturesque careers of the present day is that of the present chancellor of Korea, Gen. Clarence Greathouse, who, although a Kentuckian by birth, is the personal adviser of the King of Korea. Greathouse won a State reputation in Kentucky while yet a young man as attorney general, and in 1870 moved to California and soon became the counsel for several big corporations. He also practically founded the San Francisco Examiner, but soon retired, taking up journalism again, however, when Cleveland was first nominated, and doing such excellent service that he received as a reward the post of consul general at Yokohama. Being something of a bon vivant, a capital raconteur, and having a taste for Oriental life, he soon became popular with the Japanese. In 1893, while at Seoul on a visit, he met the King of Korea, who was greatly attracted by the fascinating and accomplished American, and offered him a position at court, at first as minister of postal affairs and afterward as chancellor. In the latter capacity he has been able to render his sovereign many services, among others that of detecting and punishing the conspirators who had prepared to blow up the King and all his court. The general, who is now about 55 years old, still dresses in American style, but lives in oriental splendor in the government or royal house.

## Swallowed a Hole.

The other day Jimmie, 4 years old, found one of those bone-rimmed circles which, I believe, ladies call eyelets, and, while playing in the garden, swallowed it. The family were in the house busily engaged with a work on entomology, when Jimmy ran in, with mouth wide open, and eyes distended to their utmost capacity. His mother caught him by the arm, and trembling with that deep anxiety which only a mother can feel, inquired:

"What is the matter? What has happened?"

"Water!" gasped little Jimmy, nearly scared to death.

It was brought him, when, after drinking copiously, he exclaimed:

"Oh, mother, I swallowed a hole!"

"Swallowed a hole, Jimmy?"

"Yes, mother, swallowed a hole, with a piece of ivory around it!"

## Another Long-Felt Want.

"It's no use talkin'," said Mr. Corn-tassel, as he knocked the ashes out of his pipe. "This government ain't run right."

"What's the matter?" asked the neighbor.

"There ain't enough people to do the work. They're tryin' to put too much onto the war department. When it was decided to have a war, the war department applied for men an' got 'em; it went ahead an' licked the Spaniards an' wound the business up in a few months. War was easy. But if they want to open up an office that won't have anything but busy days an' all kinds of trouble, let 'em make arrangements for a peace department!"—Washington Star.

## Divorc' by Candles.

When a Burmese husband and wife decide to separate the woman goes out and buys two little candles of equal length, which are made especially for this use. She brings them home. She and her husband sit down on the floor, placing the candles between them, and light them simultaneously. One candle stands for her, the other for him. The one whose candle goes out first rises and goes out of the house forever, with nothing but what he or she may have on. The one whose candle has survived the longer time, even by a second, takes everything. So the divorce and division of the property, if one can call that a division, are settled.—Amrita Bazar Patrika.

It's always tough on the tight rope walker when he steps from the strait and narrow path.

Satan never gets tired of jollying people who imagine they are prize beauties.

## AND NOW THEY'RE MAKING EGGS OUT OF MILK.

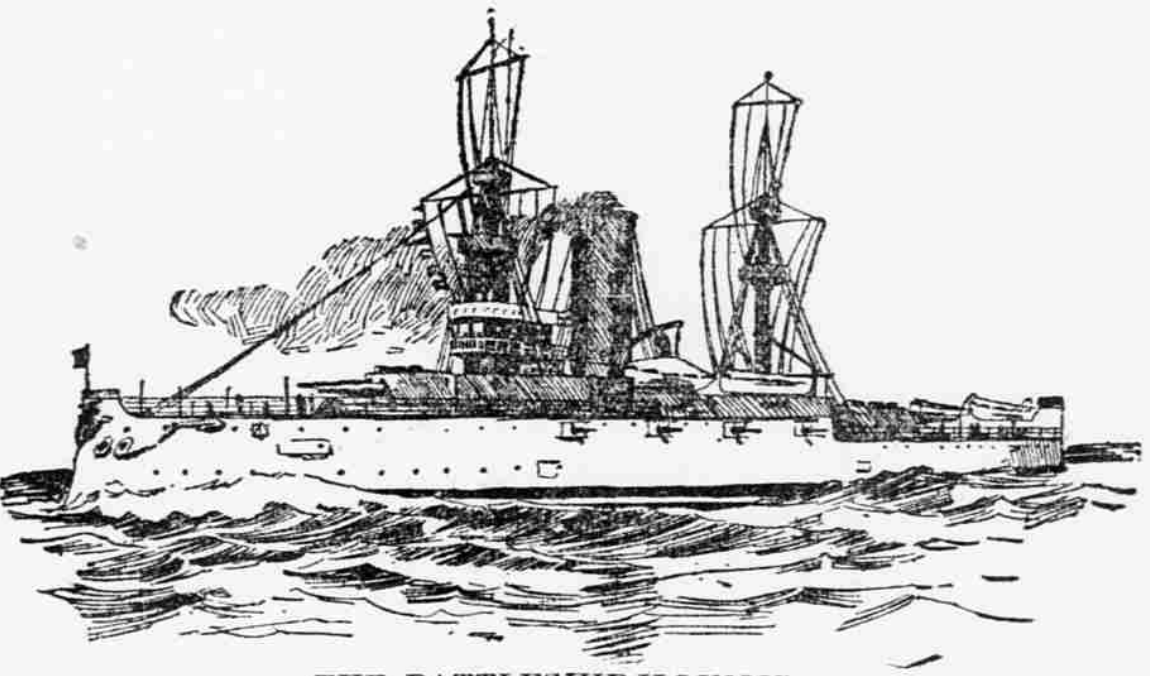


## THE BATTLESHIP ILLINOIS.

She Will Be One of the Most Powerful Vessels in Uncle Sam's Navy.

The battleship Illinois, which was recently launched at Newport News, Va., will be one of the most powerful vessels in Uncle Sam's navy. Her dimensions are: Length on load water line, 368 feet; beam, extreme, 72 feet 2 1/2 inches; draft on normal displacement of 11,525 tons, 23 feet 6 inches; maximum displacement, all ammunition and stores on board, 12,325 tons; maximum indicated horse power (estimated), 10,000; probable speed, 16 1/2 knots; normal coal supply, 800 tons; coal capacity, loose storage, 1,200; full bunker capacity, 1,400 to 1,500 tons; complement of officers, 40; seamen, marines, etc., 449.

The main battery will consist of 4 13-inch breech-loading rifles in Hichborn balanced turrets, oval in shape, and placed in the center line of the vessel, and 15 6-inch rapid-fire guns. The secondary battery will consist of 16 6-pounder, rapid-fire guns, 4 1-pounder, rapid-fire guns, two Colt guns, and two field guns. She will carry four torpedo tubes. The 13-inch guns have an arc of fire of 135 degrees on each side of the center line, and the 6-inch an



THE BATTLESHIP ILLINOIS.

arc of 90 degrees on the broadside, with the advantage of those on the upper deck of a direct fire ahead and astern. Any injury to or near either of these six-inch guns will be confined to its own compartment, as a 1 1/2 steel splinter bulkhead separates each of these guns from its neighbor.

Four powerful electric searchlights are also provided—two on top of the forward gunhouse and two on each side of the after military mast—all having an elevation of 25 feet above the water line and commanding a complete all-round range.

## Russian Marriage Ceremonies.

In Russia there are some quaint marriage customs. The ceremony, as performed by a priest, includes the blessing of bread, after which he joins their hands, asking each in turn whether they will vow to be good to each other and to keep house well. A wreath of wormwood is then placed on their heads, symbolizing that even amid the happiness of married life there is a possibility of bitterness, and a concluding benediction is pronounced. A striking custom follows. The priest drinks their health in a gilt wooden bowl, and is imitated by husband and wife, the former of whom subsequently dashes it upon the ground, crushing it under his feet and shouting terrible imprecations: "Let them be trampled upon and confounded who maliciously endeavor to create ill-will and do ill office between us." Yet another quaint and somewhat characteristic Russian custom follows. On reaching home the bridegroom orders his wife to take off his boots, at the same time saying there is a whip in one and a purse in the other. Upon the fortune of her first choice the poor wife forecasts the severity or liberality of the man to whom her life is committed.

## Mutilation of Teeth by Savages.

Mutilation of the teeth is practiced by many of the savage or uncivilized nations of the world. In the Malay Archipelago the natives file their teeth into points like those of a saw, or pierce them with holes into which they insert studs. The Macassar people sometimes pull out two front teeth, in order to supply their place with teeth of pure gold or silver. Some African tribes knock out their front teeth on the ground that they do not wish to look like wild beasts. On the Upper Nile four front teeth are always knocked out, but farther south only the two upper incisors are dispensed with. The Sunda Islanders sometimes blacken all

the teeth, but two with burned coconut, covering the two excepted teeth with tin plates of gold or silver. The same tribe are in the habit of employing their old women to dress up the teeth of the youths and maidens at wooing times. The canine teeth are filed to a fine smooth edge, and the body of the tooth made concave, or they will notch the edge of the teeth like a fine saw as an additional means of beautifying.

## It Looked Bad.

A certain young lady, against whom appearances certainly looked dark, once had an amusing experience of unjust judgment. She went out on a stormy day, and was unfortunate enough to have her umbrella turned inside out. Her two sisters were equally unlucky, and on the following day the young lady volunteered to take the three umbrellas to be repaired.

Promising to call for them before she returned home in the afternoon, she went about her business, part of which was to do some shopping in a large city establishment. On rising to leave the shop, she mechanically put out her hand to take possession of an umbrella that was close by. It looked like her

own, and for the moment she had forgotten the accident. She was soon brought to her senses.

"That is my umbrella," said a sharp voice at her side, and a hand was laid on her arm to detain her.

Apologizing for her thoughtlessness, she left the shop, did the rest of her business, and called for her umbrellas. In the street-car she met an indignant pair of eyes. Where had she seen them before? They scanned first her face, and then the burden she carried. "Three of them!" muttered the owner of the eyes, and it was evident that she referred to the umbrellas. "Three! She's din no bad the day!"

As she spoke she grasped her own umbrella tightly, and moved farther away from the dangerous young lady. The color came into the cheeks of the latter. The speaker was her friend of the morning, and she evidently believed that the umbrellas had been stolen from different establishments in the city. And the worst of it was, it looked as if it might be so.

## Only One Way.

An exchange tells a story of a judge who could not control his temper, and so could not control other people. One day there was unusual disorder in the court-room, and at last the judge could endure it no longer.

"It is impossible to allow this persistent contempt of court to go on," he exclaimed, "and I shall be forced to go to the extreme length of taking the one step that will stop it!"

There was a long silence; then one of the leading counsel rose, and with just a trace of a smile, inquired: "If I please your honor, from what date will your resignation take effect?"

## Victoria's Views Broadened.

Queen Victoria, as she grows older, becomes broader and more liberal on many questions, especially concerning the observance of the Sabbath, much to the distress of many of her worthy subjects. Last spring, in going to and from Riviera, for the first time in her life she traveled on Sunday.

## Double-Entry Bookkeeping.

The double-entry system of bookkeeping, now in common use, was first practiced in Italy in the latter part of the fifteenth century.

If Justice is like most women, she drops her scales every few hours to get in them and see how much she weighs.

## "LOBSTERIN'."

A Profitable Industry, Although Dificult to Follow.

One of the most profitable industries down on the coast of Maine is "lobsterin'." It is a laborious occupation, and those who follow it have to endure much hardship and exposure and many perils from the sea. Lobsters are caught on rocky bottoms in "traps" or "pots," which are made of hickory sapplings after the fashion of a crockery crate. At the two small ends holes are arranged with spikes of flexible wood running to a focus, so that the lobster, tempted to enter by a bait hung from the center, finds it impossible to get out. The most common bait are codfish heads and fish which are so plentiful and unpopular to be salable in market. The pots are submerged in two or three fathoms of water with stone sinkers, and their location marked by short logs of wood fastened to them by ropes and allowed to float on the surface.

Twice a day, at sunrise and sunset, the pots are visited, and the lobsters are taken out and thrown into a chest in the boat, with a lot of seaweed to keep them fresh and give them "something to chew on." After the pots have all been emptied the lobsters are all taken to a large "float" at some convenient spot, where they are transferred to a tank and kept until called for.

Lobstermen who are convenient to towns sell most of their catch in the local market. Those who are working at distant and isolated spots along the coast are visited every week or ten days by tugs fitted up with large tanks or reservoirs, capable of holding from 10,000 to 15,000 lobsters. These vessels patrol regularly up and down the coast, and when their tanks are full drop in at Boston or New York and unload.

The life of the lobsterer is lonely, as well as dangerous. He generally lives alone in a cabin on a rocky island, cooks his own meals of fish and bacon, and spends his days catching bait for his traps. Nearly all of them have lobster "farms," where the undersized lobsters and those with spawn are imprisoned in salt water ponds to grow and breed. The law protects the traffic by imposing a heavy fine upon the sale of small ones.—Chicago Record.

## RECENT INVENTIONS.

Hook-down caps are ventilated by eyelets inserted in the front of the cap to correspond with holes formed in the front-piece to admit air to the forehead and interior of the cap.

To assist in holding wearing apparel while darning holes therein the material is stretched over a flexible metal ring, the ends of which lap each other and engage one of a series of catches to expand the ring to the proper size.

For locking the wheels of baby carriages while standing, a new device consists of a rubber band attached to the body of the wagon, and having a hook on the loose end to engage the rim of the wheel and prevent it from turning.

A handy device for florists' use is a hooked rod for picking up single flower pots without the necessity of moving a large number, a sliding bar on one side of the rod closing the aperture between the hook and the end of the rod to grip the edge of the pot.

To facilitate the opening of paper bags two notches are cut in the mouth of the bag on either side of the center, or two ears are placed in like positions, to extend past each other, in order that they may be grasped separately to spread the mouth of the sack.

Merry-go-rounds are being built in England in which the animals jump hurdles fixed at intervals around the course, the horses being suspended from rollers running on a circular overhead track, undulations being formed in the track of the proper shape to lift the rider at each hurdle.

An English inventor has patented a life-saving vest to be worn on sea voyages, which is shaped like an ordinary vest and may be worn as such, inflatable pockets being provided, which are filled with air through a mouthpiece carried in the pocket and attached to a tube connected with the interior of the vest.

## The Royal Arms.

All unknowingly, for the most part, the members of the congregation of old St. Paul's Church, in New York, gaze every Sunday at the arms of the future King of England. On the canopy of the old-fashioned pulpit, which is one of the pepper-box style of a century ago, are the three ostrich feathers, and the crown that for many generations have constituted the arms of the Prince of Wales, the heir to Britain's throne. The feathers stand out gracefully in the center of the oak canopy. They are all carved wood, handsomely gilded, and form an attractive ornamentation to the pulpit.

It is argued that these royal arms survived the storms of revolutionary days. An incensed mob traveled through New York City when independence had been declared, destroying every sign that represented the monarchy from whose chains they had cut themselves free. Nothing was regarded as sacred by this mob. When its tour was over the royal arms were hard to find in New York City. Some few signs escaped the ruin, but not for long. They were smashed as soon as attention was called to their presence. The relic in St. Paul's Church was passed unnoticed, and has survived to this day.

## The New Paris Telescope.

We gather from an article in La Nature that M. Gautier, the well-known optician, is making good progress with the construction of the giant telescope intended for the great exhibition at Paris in 1900. The aperture will be 1.25 meters (49.2 inches), and the focal

length sixty meters (196 feet 10 inches), while the estimated cost is 1,400,000 francs. An equatorial mounting and dome for such a gigantic instrument may well be considered impracticable, and accordingly the telescope itself will be rigidly fixed in a horizontal position on supports of the heavenly bodies after reflection from a movable plane mirror two meters in diameter. The plane mirror is thirteen inches thick and weighs 3,600 kilogrammes, and it is curious that of twelve disks cast for the purpose, the first one turned out to be the best. This has been in process of grinding for seven months, and is not yet finished.

There will be two objectives, one photographic and one visual, which will be easily interchangeable at will. It is expected that a magnifying power of 4,000 will be usefully employed, and that occasionally a power of 10,000 may be used. As the highest power available in the largest existing telescope does not exceed 4,000, the new instrument, if it be the success that everyone will wish, should have a wide field of usefulness.—Nature.



The English author most popular in Holland is said to be Ian Maclaren.

Dr. A. Thesleff, a Finnish scholar, who has spent several months among the gypsies of Northern Sweden and Norway disguised as one of their class, will shortly publish a work on their language, life and manners.

Constable & Co. are to publish a complete library edition of Smollett's works in the same general style as their recent edition of Fielding. It will consist of twelve volumes and will have an introduction by W. E. Henley.

Mrs. Craigie, who is still called on her title pages and the announcements of her plays "John Oliver Hobbes," is engaged upon the sequel to her last novel, "The School for Saints," and is also at work upon a historical play which will be called "Gwendolene and Loeline," but neither of the works will be before the public for some time to come.

Wemyss Reid declares that the original of Rochester in "Jane Eyre" was the brother of Charlotte Bronte's friend, Ellen Nussey, and was a West riding merchant who had all the unpollished force and dogged egotism which sometimes marked the Yorkshire magnate in those days. "Charlotte," Mr. Reid adds, "idealized him into Rochester and planted him in the midst of circumstances of which his own life knew nothing."

The death of Mrs. Lynn Linton calls attention to the circumstances that many of the most famous women novelists come of a clerical stock. Jane Austen was the daughter of a Hampshire rector, the Brontes were the daughters of the vicar of Haworth, Olive Schreiner is the daughter of a South African missionary, and Mrs. Humphry Ward is the granddaughter of the Rev. Thomas Arnold, the famous headmaster of Rugby.

The sixpenny editions abroad of the best books of well-known modern authors seem to have hit the popular taste. Rider Haggard's "King Solomon's Mines" ran to 100,000 copies and is being reprinted. This was followed by "Treasure Island," which has done almost as well, and now Cassells are announcing Mr. Quiller Couch's "Dead Man's Rock," a book of adventure that is less known, but which is likely to rival the popularity of its two predecessors.

## Mme. Patti's Burglar Alarms.

Visiting Mme. Patti's superb castle in Wales, a guest not long ago had a very curious experience. He chanced to open his window in the middle of the night, and, to his surprise, bells began to ring in every quarter of the grounds.

Very much scared, but realizing that he had, after all, only set a burglar alarm going, the guest descended to reassure the household, when he instantly found himself in danger from a dozen roving dogs, who had obtained their freedom and were growling and snapping in the ugliest manner.

At breakfast next morning he learned all about this curious fad of Mme. Patti's and wondered at it. The singer has a great dread of burglars. Some time ago a gang of these gentlemen from London attempted to obtain admittance, but were defeated in their object, and since that date Mme. Patti has set up every kind of burglar alarm that exists.

The queer part about one of these is, however, well worth noticing. Her largest dog, an enormous brute, who might be relied on to cope with a little army of thieves, is kept rigorously chained in a patent kennel, but the chain is so arranged that should any one attempt to open a window or a door in the castle the dog is released and free to rove at his pleasure, it being presumed that he would at once make for the burglars and do his duty. The idea is ingenious and, as the guest discovered, not a little dangerous.

## When They Are Loud.

Bilkins—Who was it wrote "Actions speak louder than words?"

Harper—I don't know, but I'll bet the thought occurred to him while he was trying to sneek upstairs at 3 o'clock in the morning.

## Papa's Affliction.

He—I suppose if I were to kiss you you'd scream and bring your father downstairs in a rage, wouldn't you? She—Oh, papa is very deaf.